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Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515-6216
Telephone: 202-225-3951

November 5, 1986

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The Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Director Casey:

The CIA's recruitment of metropolitan police undercover officers raises several concerns.

First, I, like Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates, am troubled by the impact this transfer of resources will have on our big city police departments. At a time when most urban mayors are clamoring for more resources for law enforcement and for federal assistance in the fight against drugs, it seems to me we can ill afford to lose even one experienced police officer, particularly to an agency with significant resources of its own.

Second, I am concerned about the effect this experience could have on the police officers participating in the program. I have always opposed the use of CIA agents in this country on the ground that the agency's mission is intelligence gathering and not law enforcement. CIA agents, unlike the FBI or state and local police, are not -- nor do they need to be -- trained in the niceties of constitutional law and criminal procedure. They operate unconstrained by the laws of the host country and of the United States. This lack of constraint is not a tradition that you or I would want to inculcate in our own police.

So that I may better understand this program and in order to alleviate my concerns, I would appreciate your providing me with answers to these questions:

How many police officers does the CIA plan to hire in the next year? At what cost to the CIA?

What functions will these individuals be performing? Why are CIA personnel unable or unavailable to perform these functions? If these functions are essential to the CIA's mission, why not train existing CIA personnel to perform them or hire new personnel for those purposes?

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How long will the police recruits remain with the CIA? What training will they receive? Will they return to their previous positions following their tour of duty with the CIA?

How will they and/or their respective departments be reimbursed? Will their families (if any) be relocated? At whose expense?

I appreciate your prompt response to my inquiry.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



Don Edwards
Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil and
Constitutional Rights

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